(MDA) is used for financing various export promotion activities such as (i) market research, commodity research, area survey and research programmes; (ii) export publicity and dissemination of information; (iii) sending of trade delegations and study teams (iv) grant-in-aid to Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and other approved organisations for developmental activities. Grant-in-aid to the EPCs has been pegged to the export performance of the respective Councils. The Councils are presently eligible to receive MDA funding to the extent of 0.01% of the export performance of the previous year with minimum and maximum limits. In addition, grants for special projects arc also provided to the grantee organisations on the basis of functional requirements. The entire fund is utilised for- export development activities. The EPCs are expected to meet their administrative costs from their own resources.

The allocations received during the last three years under this head are as under:—

1994-95	— 13 crores.
1995-96	— 16 crores.
1996-97	— 20 crores.
Provision for 1997-98	— 20 crores.

The MDA Scheme has proved to be a successful instrument for encouraging export promotion activities, in addition to the normal trade promotion activities like organisation of exhibitions abroad, buyer-seller meets, mounting trade delegations etc., MDA assistance is also being provided for dissemination of trade information, encouraging electronic commerce, conducting surveys and research studies etc. MDA funds are also being provided for contesting antidumping cases abroad. The Scheme is functioning well and has been successful in meeting its objectives.

Import of New and Used Tyres

1429. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS *GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed import of new and used tyres;

(b) if so, what arc the salient features of the policy in this regard;

(c) whether the domestic tyre manufacturing industry has opposed the policy; and

(d) if so, the details and Government's reaction to their apprehensions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the current Export & Import Policy announced on 31.3.97. import of new and used typres has been permitted freely.

(c) and (d) Yes. Sir. The representation of the tyre manufacturing industry is under examination and a decision, as and when taken, shall be announced through a notification.

Upward Revision of Export Targets

1430. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export targets lot 1997-98 are being revised upwardly;

(b) if so, what are the proposed targets;

(c) whether the strategy to achieve these targets for exports is also going to be revised; and

(d) if so, the salient points of new strategy may be indicated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Export targets for the year 1997-98 have been fixed at US$ 39052 million. No revision has been proposed so far.

(c) and (d) Export promotion is a continuous and sustained process. However, for improving the growth of exports taking into account the country's strengths and potential, a medium term export startegy is being prepared by the Ministry for achieving an export level of US$ 75—90 billion by 2002, and to achieve 1% share in world exports (as compared to the present level of 0.6%). The strategy would include, interalia, diversification of the export basket, deepening of India's presence in the existing markets, identifying a new set of products for exports and increasing the production base, institutional supports etc.

पुराने रेडियल टायरों के आयात का रबड़ के उपयोग पर प्रभाव

1431. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने पुराने रेडियल टायरों के आयता करने की अनुमति दिए जाने कर रबर के उपयोग पर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव का अध्ययन कराया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या परिणाम निकले; और

(ग) रबड़ उत्पादकों के हितों की रक्षा के लिए क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोल्ला बुल्ली रमैया) : (क) से (ग) जी, नहीं। 31.3.1997 को घोषित चालू आयात एंव निर्यात नीति के तहत उपयोग किए गए टायरों के मुक्त रूप से आयात करने की अनुमति दी गई है। तथापि, उपयोग किए गए टायरों के मुक्त रूप से आयात किए जाने के खिलाफ प्रतिवदेन प्राप्त हुए है और इस सबंध में जब भी कोई निर्णय होगा, अधिसूचना के जरिए सूचित कर दिया जाएगा।

ग्रेनाइट के कच्चे माल के निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन देने की नीति

1432. **श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने ग्रेनाइट के कच्चे माल के निर्यात को प्रोत्साहन देने की नीति की समीक्षा की है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप तैयार ग्रेनाइट वस्तुओं का निर्यात करने वाली इकाइंया बदं हो चुकी हैं, और

(ख) क्या इस मामले पर पुनर्विचार किया जा रहा है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोल्ला बुल्ली रमैया) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Packaging of Indian Tea in Russia

1433. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of Indian tea to Russia is likely to be hit hard as a result of steep hike in duty on imported packaged tea by Russian Government;

(b) whether the Indian Government propose to undertake the packaging of the Indian tea in Russia itself to reduce the cost of export of Indian tea to Russia; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) The increase in duty is likely to affect packet tea imports into Russia from major exporting countries including India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of Gold Jewellery

1434. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of gold jewellery exported from the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that exports of gold jewellery from the country have virtually come to a standstill in recent months; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken to remove the hurdles?